

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
9th JANUARY 2017
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

PRESENT:

Councillors: B Taylor (Chair), A Gibbs, A Fay, S Blackmore, J Butler, M Crumpton
Officer: Locum Clerk V Anderson

2064. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor D Boulton.

2065. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

Cllr S Blackmore declared an interest in item 14 (Coalpit Heath Village Hall grant application) being a Parish Council representative on the hall committee. Cllr S Blackmore agreed to leave the room at the appropriate time.
Cllr A Fay advised Council that she was the applicant regarding item 13 (Modification Order). As the item was only for noting Cllr A Fay was not required to leave the room.

2066. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the parish

Cllr C Young reported:-
Planning issues

Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study

I made a detailed response to both consultations, which closed on 19th December. Officers will now evaluate and consider all the feedback. The development of the JSP will continue through 2017 with the document likely to be submitted to the Secretary of State in 2018.

In parallel, South Gloucestershire Council will be developing its revised Local Plan. At the December meeting of the Policy and Resources committee we agreed to the Initiation Document being published. The Parish Council should shortly be receiving draft Sustainable Access Profiles for communities in the Parish for comments and corrections. I have already provided some feedback.

Feedback from the JTS consultation will be evaluated and used to inform the Joint Transport Study recommendations to be published in summer 2017. All four Councils will then consider these recommendations for inclusion in an update to the Joint Local Transport Plan for further public consultation by the end of 2017.

Last month I reported that I had invited people interested in campaigning on development around Coalpit Heath to a meeting. Following that, an action group called VALID (Villagers Against Local Intended Development) was set up.

288 Badminton Road

The DC (East) planning committee is due to visit the site at approximately 10.55am on Friday 13th January.

Beech Hill Farm

The appeal against the Council's refusal of the caravan storage use was successful.

Winterbourne and Yate International Academies

The Castle School Education Trust and The Olympus Academy Trust are providing interim leadership at Winterbourne International Academy.

Although I have still not heard back from either the Secretary of State for Education or the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System, I did get a very prompt response from the National Schools' Commissioner. He confirmed that given the sensitivity of the issue, the decision on both academies would be made by the Under Secretary of State for the School System, with advice from the Regional Schools Commission, who no longer had an interest once Oasis pulled out.

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Extra budget consultation question

You may recall that last year Councils that provide adult social care were allowed to levy an additional 2% adult social care precept to go towards the increasing costs of providing care. The expectation was that this would continue at 2% for the following years. SGC took up this option. In December the Government announced a proposal that Councils be allowed to introduce the rise sooner – so they could increase Council tax by up to 3% in 2017/18 or 2018/19 but still could not exceed 6% in total over the three year period 2017-2020. SGC has added an additional question about this on the budget consultation.

Member Awarded Funding

I have received a number of applications for Member Awarded Funding and will be considering them after the end of this month.

Yate Fire Station

I responded to the consultation. Concerns were raised with me that the consultation was only 6 weeks and held across the Christmas holiday period.

Yate HGV and Transport Studies

In December colleagues and I attended a meeting with highways officers about two studies – the Yate HGV study and the Yate Town Centre Traffic and Movement Study. The conclusion of the first report was that nothing should change. With the second, we discussed what we felt were the local priorities from the schemes proposed. I will keep you updated.

Yate Spur Cycle Path

On Thursday I attended the drop-in exhibition on the next stage of the Yate Spur cycle path and I followed up by responding to the consultation in writing. I welcome progress on the scheme but the proposals for the already dangerous Nibley Lane/Westerleigh Road junction are a concern. There is still time for comments as the consultation closes on Sunday.

Another 82 bus service cut

From 8th January, the number 82 service from Southmead Hospital via Cribbs Causeway to Yate loses its last journey of the day. Instead the last bus now leaves at 7.15pm Monday to Friday, almost an hour earlier. This hits people visiting loved ones in hospital, people who work at Cribbs and people who attend SGS Filton College in the evening. I have raised this with a South Glos transport officer, who said the decision was made commercially by First Bus and he would speak to them about the changes at his next meeting with them.

Spring Clean 2017

The annual Spring Clean will be running from 18th February to 14th May. This year South Glos is teaming up with Keep Britain Tidy's new Great British Spring Clean, which will focus on encouraging events over the weekend of 3rd-5th March. However you can organise an event at any time during the three month campaign and the Council is more likely to be able to lend you equipment if you avoid popular weekends.

To get involved, go to the [Spring Clean 2017 page](#) on the South Glos website and register your event using the booking form. The Council can provide free bin bags, recycling bags and gloves and a limited number of litter pickers and hoops. They can also collect the bags if you can't dispose of them.

Free fitness activities

If you currently do less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week, are over 14 years old and live in South Gloucestershire, you are eligible to receive Sports Pound vouchers. These will give you eight free sessions of any of the activities listed on their website, including aerobics, ante and postnatal fitness, badminton, bowls, cricket, football, martial arts, netball, rugby, running, swimming, tennis and yoga. More information is available at <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/sportspound>.

2067. Councillor Reports – written submissions taken as read with questions taken as necessary

None presented.

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2068. Confirm the minutes of the meeting held 5th December 2016

Proposed by Cllr M Crumpton, seconded by Cllr S Blackmore and agreed that the minutes be approved and signed.

2069. Correspondence/Communication with Council

1. Letter from Henfield Social Hall regarding the car park surface as there has been a recent entry in their accident book. The matter is to be referred to the next Environment and Leisure Committee.

2070. Payment of Accounts

To Whom	Details	Net (£)	Gross (£)	VAT (£)
STAFFING	COSTS DECEMBER 2016	2236.35	2236.35	0.00
MRS F THORNTON	OFFICE EXPENSES – ALLOW/PHONE	67.61	67.61	0.00
MANOR HALL	ROOM HIRE	27.00	27.00	0.00
HANDS PROPERTY MAINT.	EMPTY DOG/LITTER BINS DECEMBER	435.00	435.00	0.00
GB SPORT AND LEISURE	REPAIRS TO ZIP WIRE	765.62	918.74	153.12
C BELCHER	PLAY AREA/BUS SHELTER INSPECT APR – OCT / PAINT & MAINTENANCE WESTERLEIGH PLAY AREA	2396.00	2875.20	479.20

Proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr S Blackmore, all in favour, the above payments were approved.

2071. Council to consider the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommendation to set the precept for 2017 – 2018 financial year at no more than 2% above the 2016 – 2017 precept rate.

At the last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 21st November, it was agreed to recommend to Council that an increase of no more than 2% be applied to the 2017 – 2018 precept demand.

The Council Tax Base reported by South Gloucestershire Council on the 12th December reports that Band D equivalent has increased in the district by 0.6% (90,205 dwellings 2016/17 is predicted to increase to 90,777 for 2017/18). The 2017/2018 Tax Base for Westerleigh is predicted to be 1,370 (+7 on 2016/17) which has a minimal impact on the financial figures for Westerleigh parishioners.

The proposed Local Council Tax Reduction Support Grant will also be significantly reduced for 2017/18 (and for future years) which should not be considered to offset the precept demand although it will have an impact on budgets due to ongoing reductions. The proposed LCTR Support Grant for 2017/18 is £1,400 (-£1,020 on 2016/17).

If Council agree a nominal increase of £1,542 on the precept the total demand for 2017/18 will be £78,654. Taking into consideration the increase in the Council Tax Base for Westerleigh Parish the net increase per Band D household will be 1.99% (£0.83).

Proposed by Cllr B Taylor, seconded by Cllr M Crumpton and unanimously agreed that Westerleigh Parish Council set the 2017/2018 precept demand at £78,654; and that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be delegated the responsibility for apportioning the 2017/2018 budget at their next meeting and ratified at the next Council meeting.

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2072. Council to consider the procedure for co-option of two Parish Councillors for the ward of Coalpit Heath.

The two Councillor vacancies that exists within the ward of Coalpit Heath can now be filled by co-option as no election has been called for either vacancy.

To date three parishioners have notified this Council that they wish to be considered for the two vacancies, however there are set procedures that must now be implemented before any consideration is given to appointing new members to office.

New public notice (attached to the agenda for information) will be placed on ward notice boards and on the website on the day following this meeting. The closing date is set for Monday 30th January so that the next despatch can include the names of interested parties, this should allow sufficient time for sending out invitations to the relevant parties to attend the Council meeting scheduled for the 6th February 2017.

It was unanimously agreed to place the public notices for the times set out in the report.

2073. Council to consider a revised process of Councillor co-option.

Introduction

If no request for an election is received by South Gloucestershire Council by the date on the Notice of Vacancy, the Democratic Services Department will advise the Parish Council that it may co-opt to the vacancy. Co-option is the process by which the Parish Council selects a new Councillor and it is done as an agenda item within a regular Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council manages the process of co-option by itself and strives to demonstrate that it is fair and equitable by following the procedure set out below:

Procedure

- 1 Westerleigh Parish Council invites interested candidates to write (letter or email) to the Clerk by a specified date. If there is only one applicant for one vacancy, the applicant is to be co-opted to the Parish Council subject to the criteria (listed in the public notice) being met and that there is a proposer and seconder to co-opt the candidate before voting takes place. If there is more than one candidate, the letters received are circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting at which a Parish Councillor is to be co-opted. These letters form part of the agenda pack which Councillors receive for every Parish Council meeting.
- 2 At the Parish Council meeting candidates are invited to say something about themselves and Councillors have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. Each candidate will be allocated a maximum of five minutes. If a candidate is unable to attend the meeting they may submit a résumé of why they would make a good Councillor.
- 3 In a closed session of the Parish Council without the public present, members consider the candidates and, following the discussion, the public are invited back into the meeting after the voting takes place.
- 4 The Chairman will request the Councillors present to nominate any of the candidates. Candidates will require a proposer and seconder to progress to the voting stage. If there is only one vacancy, a Councillor may only nominate or second one candidate. One candidate needs to receive an absolute majority of votes.
- 5 The Chairman will then place the names of those nominated into alphabetical order and proceed to vote. Councillors will have one vote per vacancy to be filled.
- 6 Voting will be in accordance with Standing Orders by a show of hands and will continue until one candidate has received an absolute majority of those Councillors present. At this stage, the successful candidate will be declared co-opted.

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- 7 Should no single candidate receive a majority on the first vote, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated. Voting will then take place for the remaining candidates until one person receives an absolute majority.
- 8 The successful candidate is then declared co-opted to the Parish Council and will be asked to join the meeting.
- 9 The successful candidate is a Councillor in their own right and is no different to any other member; co-option is a legitimate form of election as part of the election process.

2074. Consultation Westerleigh, Dodington and Yate - Yate Spur Cycle Path

South Gloucestershire Council is continuing work to complete the Yate Spur cycle path. When complete the path will provide a shared use route between the Bristol and Bath railway path at Coxgrove Hill and Station Road, Yate.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide a continuous off carriageway route for commuting, leisure and recreation, linking Yate with the Ring Road cycle path and the Bristol railway path.

The consultation focusing on the following sections of the path:

- Nibley Lane crossing
- Shire Way

Construction of the following sections is expected as follows, subject to funding:

- Nibley Lane crossing, summer 2017
- Railway viaduct on Westerleigh Road near Shire Way, summer 2017
- Shire Way between Westerleigh Road and Rodford Way, autumn 2017

Following debate which mainly focused on the Nibley Lane Crossing **it was unanimously agreed to make the following responses:**

The central refuge is likely to create traffic build up at the junction due to restricting egress from Nibley Lane (no longer facilitate cars side by side turning left and right).

There are concerns regarding the turning of long vehicles such as articulated and trailed vehicles as the lanes will be narrower due to the central refuge.

Vehicles coming from the Yate direction may have restricted visibility (cyclists and pedestrians obscured) whilst approaching and turning into the junction or be distracted by the main flow of traffic before they turn.

2075. Consultation on a Safer and Stronger Plan 2017 - 2021 for South Gloucestershire.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership (SSCSP) brings together a range of organisations to co-ordinate and deliver actions which support the development of safer and stronger communities in South Gloucestershire. These include South Gloucestershire Council, the Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), Fire and Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation services, Social Landlords, and the voluntary sector.

The Partnership Strategy needs to be redeveloped and refocused for the future. SGC have agreed to jointly develop and implement a single plan that will combine the Partnership Strategy with the Local Police and Crime Plan. The proposed refreshed strategy lays out four priorities until 2021 and they would like to receive feedback on the priorities, objectives and measures they are proposing.

Council agreed to make the following responses to the questionnaire.

Q1. What do you think about the general approach to our Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan?

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No Comment – sensible approach

Q2. Priority 1 is “Protect the most vulnerable from harm” To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Strongly agree

Q3. Comments to priority 1?

Vulnerability comes in many forms – comes in a wide range of age groups, genders and abilities.

Q4. Priority 2 is “Strengthen and improve your local community” To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Strongly agree

Q5 Comments to priority 2?

None

Q6. Priority 3 is “Promote equality and reduce deprivation” To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Slightly agree

Q7. Comments to priority 3?

Important issue but changes depending on demographics (in areas of community), Needs to be targeted.

Q8. Priority 4 is “Working together effectively” To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Strongly agree

Q9. Comments to priority 4?

Agencies need to share information in a coherent and relevant way.

2076. Notice of Modification Order, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Council is advised that an application for a Modification Order to add a bridleway from Broad Lane to Frog Lane Coalpit Heath has been received by South Gloucestershire Council from the British Horse Society dated 25 November 2016. Cllr A Fay advised that the path is now used as a footpath having been used as a bridleway in the past but is not a Public Right of Way (PROW).

Report noted.

2077. ‘The Miners’ - Coalpit Heath Village Hall grant application.

Cllr S Blackmore left the room prior to Council considering the item.

Council received an application for grant funding from ‘The Miners’ to help finance a boiler which serves the bar and skittles alley area which is now over 20 years old.

The cost of replacement was £2,200 with the grant applicant requesting a grant of 50% (£1,100) to support this. The services they provide extend to 50% of the residents within the Parish of Westerleigh.

Proposed by Cllr M Crumpton, seconded by Cllr J Butler and unanimously agreed that a grant of £1,100 be awarded to ‘The Miners’ (Coalpit Heath Village Hall)

Cllr S Blackmore was invited back into the room after the decision was taken.

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2078. Council to consider and agree on the formal response to the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Strategy (JTS) consultation.

Cllr B Taylor reported that he and Cllr S Blackmore went to the latest JPCC meeting and discussed the issues raised during the previous Council meeting. They couldn't state WPC's position formally, not having seen the minutes, but listed the points raised. The meeting agreed to seek an extension to the closing date for consultation until mid January.

This has been rejected by SGC, but with the following statement "Having said this, we would be very pleased to continue to work with the consortia of member parish and town Councils to further explore and discuss local issues as we go forward as part of preparing the next stage of the JSP. If it helps, officers would advise that the consortia parish and town Councils consider submitting a 'holding' reply by 19th December deadline indicating that further detailed comments will be provided by 11th January as the outline for further detailed technical discussions with officers in early 2017."

Mrs Deborah White (ALCA Chief Officer) was requested to submit the JSP/JTS response as a "holding reply", majoring on the big issues.

Cllr's Taylor and Blackmore agreed to compose a draft of further comments (having also heard the views of the other Councils) which were put before this Council for submission immediately afterwards.

Decision – proposed by Cllr J Butler, seconded by Cllr A Fay and unanimously agreed that the following additional comments be submitted:

1. Green Belt

Both Central Government and South Gloucestershire Council have insisted that green belt should be protected, and there is ample non-green belt land available for development within the 4 administrative areas. The 1500 additional homes proposed to be built at Coalpit Heath would result in the loss of the belt separating the communities of Coalpit Heath, Westerleigh and Yate.

2. Number of homes

The size of the proposed 160% increase in housing in Coalpit Heath would change the character of the community from semi-rural village-based to more of a dormitory town, where much of the population would be absent during most of the day.

3. Transport

The proposal for Coalpit Heath expansion speaks of "good proximity to employment opportunities...in North and North East Bristol". We suggest that the strategic vision should be to place homes, employment and services in the same area, so that commuting by any means is minimised. The current proposal would result in hundreds more commuting at peak times on inadequate transport links.

2079. Items considered urgent by the Chairman (if any)

The chairman advised Council that a request had been received from South Gloucestershire Council for each Parish Council to send a representative to attend a briefing session regarding the M4 Junction 18a Link Study to be held at Kingswood Civic Centre on Thursday 2nd February 2017. As only one representative is allowed for each Council it was agreed that Cllr A Fay would represent Westerleigh Parish Council.

2080. Date of Next Meeting Full Council 6th February 2017 at Westerleigh Village Hall

Signed:

Date: 6th February 2017